

FdSc Rehabilitation Work (Visual Impairment)

COURSE FACTS

Faculty	Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences
Applications	Please contact Peter Cooke. T: +44 (0)121 202 4223 E: peter.cooke@bcu.ac.uk E: rehabadmissionsquery@bcu.ac.uk
Duration	Two years (full time)
Location	City South Campus, Edgbaston
Contact	Programme Director: Dave Bignell T: +44 (0)121 202 4224 E: david.bignell@bcu.ac.uk www.bcu.ac.uk/fdsc-rehab Visit www.bcu.ac.uk/opendays for dates of future events.



ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

One of the following:

- O-level/GCSE/GCE passes in three subjects at grade C or above.
- A-Level pass grade D or above plus O-level/GCSE/GCE passes in two subjects at grade C or above.
- A minimum of a pass in an advanced General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ).
- Other qualifications may be considered. Please email the admissions Tutor for consideration.

COURSE OVERVIEW

A Rehabilitation Worker (Visual Impairment) is a specialist in the practical aspects of sight loss and blindness. They are qualified to offer professional assessments of individual need, and to provide or co-ordinate specific services as part of an agreed programme. Rather like Occupational Therapists, they often visit their clients in their own homes, and develop individual programmes based on an agreed assessment of their needs.

The client base that a Rehabilitation Worker would be expected to work with is extremely diverse. There will be individuals with complex visual impairments. There may be additional health or social problems.

Clients can have other disabilities and complex needs. You will be teaching skills to a range of people who may be experiencing psychological and physiological difficulties.

A Rehabilitation Worker's strength is to be a 'problem solver' and to support clients improve their own problem solving ability. The aim of a Rehabilitation Worker is to help teach the individual how to be as independent as possible in relation to their circumstances. The rewards of improving an individual's quality of life make this career truly rewarding.

COURSE CONTENT/FEATURES

This innovative and unique course offers you the opportunity to develop teaching skills to work with people who have a sight loss. This course will develop your specialist skills, knowledge and understanding to enable you to qualify as a professional rehabilitation worker who may gain employment in a social services department or a voluntary organisation. You will learn about not only the problems of sight loss, but also how to help people experiencing sight loss in a much broader context.

Examples of some of the skills Rehabilitation Workers can offer their clients:

- Teach individuals how to cross roads independently and negotiate complex routes.
- Demonstrate a range of adaptive equipment. This could include new technology such as smart phones and tablets.
- Instruct in safe cooking methods and daily living skills. For example, ironing.
- Provide group training programmes to fellow professionals such as Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and Healthcare workers.

- Teach a range of communication skills. For example, Braille and the Deaf Blind manual alphabet.
- Give advice and reinforce training in relation to the use of magnifiers and low vision aids.
- Provide support and advice to individuals with a sight loss, carers, family members and parents of children with a visual impairment.
- Advise about design and modifications to specific environments to make them more accessible to those with visual impairment. For example, a person's home or a soon to be built shopping centre.

Work based learning is an integral part of the course. There is the requirement to attend a minimum of 60 days with an organisation that provides services linked to sight loss in year one. There will be opportunities to observe practice and interactions with individuals with a sight loss. In year two, there is the need to attend 60 days with an organisation that provides dedicated rehabilitation services. This is where you will start to manage a case load and deliver tailored services in relation to the individual's needs.

ASSESSMENT

Methods of assessment vary from module to module, but can include written assignments, examinations, technical skills assessments, individual formal presentations, subject-related workbooks/portfolios. A competency based reflective journal is also completed during the work based learning experience.

FURTHER STUDY

The BSc/BSc (Hons) Degree in Rehabilitation Work (Visual Impairment), which was introduced in September 2010, is available as a progression route from the Foundation Degree.

EMPLOYABILITY

As a qualified Rehabilitation Worker you will usually find yourself employed by local authority social services departments or voluntary organisations for blind and partially sighted people. Vacancies can also exist in schools, hospitals, and day and residential services. There can even be opportunities to work in other countries such as Australia and New Zealand.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information please contact The Rehab Team:

E: rehabadmissionsquery@bcu.ac.uk

W: www.bcu.ac.uk/fdsc-rehab

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For information with regards to future open days please visit www.bcu.ac.uk/opendays

